UNDP

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A REGIONAL PROJECT FOR AFRICA

IPF: (1987-1991) $226 070 000

(RAF/91/006) - Support to the Implementation of National Long-term Perspective Studies and Programmes (NLTPS/P)

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	3 April 1991	
Expected duration:	Five years	
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS	
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$9 013 000	Source of Funds: IPF

Project background

There is a strong consensus among the African countries, donors and aid agencies that African countries have to move from crisis management and evolve long-term socio-economic frameworks that could guide them in the formulation of policy reforms and investment programmes. While efforts at establishing sound macro-economic policies have to be pursued, there are burning issues, such as human development, women's role and status, population growth, protection of the environment, gender and poverty alleviation, structural changes in the economy, governance and democracy as well as regional co-operation which require immediate attention if the future of Africa is not to be jeopardized. These issues, long neglected because of the economic crisis, are complex, interrelated and often long-term in nature. However, they are amenable to policy intervention.

The foundations of that diagnosis are to be found in the recent World Bank study: "From Crisis to Sustainable Development; a Long-term Perspective Study", and in ECA's report entitled "Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment" which both called for renewed attention to long-term structural transformation of African economies and societies. This message is congruent with the UNDP Human Development Report, which lays down a new development paradigm and articulates the importance and the role of human beings as means and end of any development strategy.

During the high level meeting on Africa, held in Maastricht, The Netherlands, in July 1990, African countries were invited inter alia to prepare National Long-term Perspective Studies and Programmes (NLTPS/P), and, UNDP was entrusted with the leadership of the international community to assist in their preparation.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

Description of project

The overall objective of this major policy initiative is to assist African nations to come to grips with the long-term development of their countries, at formulating flexible socio-economic strategies for the 1990s and beyond, and, at articulating short/medium-term programmes consistent with the requirements of the long-term. In order to support and facilitate the national efforts for preparing NLTPS/P, the regional project will implement a multi-pronged approach whose tenets are: (a) formulation and dissemination of a conceptual and methodological framework (CMF), for the preparation of perspective studies at the national level; (b) establishment and maintenance of a regional information system; (c) training of trainers, to disseminate concepts, methodological approach; (d) fielding short-term consultants to participating countries, aimed at facilitating the management process of individual NLTPS/P; (e) launching prospective studies on matters which are deemed of interest to several African countries when preparing their national projections; and, f) fostering prospective exercises and long-term planning by regional/sub-regional organizations and ensuring coherence with the national exercises, through successive iterations.

As part of the implementation strategy of the regional project, "centres of excellence", will be strengthened and used for training national NLTPS/P leaders. They will form an African network specialized in perspective work which will become a source for training, research and expertise. At the national level, the regional project will attempt to encourage a broad popular participation, mobilizing the national expertise available in universities, business associations, trade unions, women associations, etc.. National authorities will also be advised to establish a small policy unit, with access to the highest levels in Government.

Once national consensus is reached on long-term objectives and reforms needed to reach them are internalized, the focus of the regional project will shift towards the operationalization of these long-term objectives. Restructuration of public expenditures, preparation of action plans, dissemination of strategic planning techniques and co-ordination of aid are among the priority areas that the regional project will tackle to achieve its objectives. Concurrence of the donors will be sought through various means, ensuring a regular flow of information so that Headquarters/field representations take fully into account the long-term priorities defined through the NLTPS/P processes.

Inputs

UNDP will finance the costs related to two management teams, one located in Abidjan, the other in Harare, 60 work-months of international consultants, 130 work-months of local consultants, a study fund, short-term fellowships for academics of the centres of excellence, training of trainers, sub-regional workshops to discuss and disseminate the findings of the project, consumable and durable equipment, as well as the renting of offices in Harare and Abidjan. The regional project will also finance the costs related to the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board. Recruitment and staffing of the two management teams will follow a staged approach in line with the growth of project activities. Gender sensitivity will be exercised in recruiting experts and consultants of the project.

Financial data

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Personnel	5 770 000
Subcontract	850 000
Training	1 450 000
Equipment	580 000
Miscellaneous	363 000
Total	9 013 000

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